

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending. Claims 1-23 are subject to a restriction requirement.

Claims 1-23 have been restricted into the following inventions:

I – claims 1-14;

II – claims 15-18;

III – claim 19;

IV – claim 20;

V – claims 21-22; and

VI – claim 23.

The Office Action states that the inventions are distinct. Applicants hereby elect Invention I for examination, including claims 1-14. For purposes of satisfying the restriction requirement and to expedite prosecution of the current application, Applicants are removing from consideration the non-elected claims without traverse. Of course, Applicants reserve the right to enter the restricted claims in one or more subsequent divisional or continuation applications.

CONCLUSION


Applicants note that on page 2, the Office Action states that the "action is in response to the application, filed on March 20, 2002." However, the correct filing date for the application is December 20, 2000.

Should the Examiner have questions, the Applicants' undersigned agent may be reached at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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